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ABSTRACT

The Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) serves the information needs of Alabama public libraries. As a state agency, APLS is charged with improving library services throughout the state to ensure that all citizens have access to quality library and information services. The agency is responsible for receiving and administering federal and state funds for more than 200 public libraries in Alabama. This document summarizes programs and services of the Alabama Public Library Service for fiscal year 1997. Information is reported under the following categories: Evaluation and Research; Information Services; Networking, Development and Planning Division; Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; Automation Services; Technical Services; and Finances. State aid totals for the libraries are presented. The Executive Board members for Districts One through Seven and Division Directors are listed at the beginning of the report, followed by a note from the Executive Board Chair, Virginia Doyle. (AEF)

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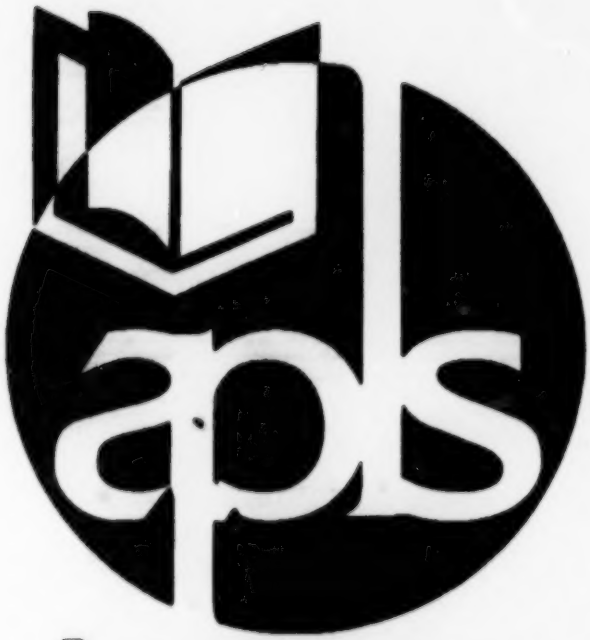


# ALABAMA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

# *1997 Annual Report*

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# 1997 Annual Report

**Alabama Public Library Service**

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ALABAMA
PUBLIC LIBRARY
SERVICE

The Alabama Public Library Service serves the information needs of Alabama public libraries. The agency was created in 1939 when the State Legislature created the Public Library Service as a separate division of the Department of Archives and History. Twenty years later, the Legislature created APLS as a separate state agency.

In 1978, the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped from Talladega moved to APLS as a new division.

As a state agency, APLS is charged with improving library services throughout the state to ensure that all citizens have access to quality library and information services. The agency is responsible for receiving and administering federal and state funds for the more than 200 public libraries in Alabama.

# Alabama Public Library Service

***Patricia L. Harris,* Director**

## Executive Board

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **District One** | Ronald A. Snider | Mobile |
| **District Two** | Janice Franklin | Montgomery |
| **District Three** | Bragg Comer II | Sylacauga |
| **District Four** | Walter Weatherly | Fort Payne |
| **District Five** | Sandra Rhodes | Huntsville |
| **District Six** | Virginia Doyle | Birmingham |
| **District Seven** | Calvin Wright | Toxey |

## Division Directors

| | |
|---|---|
| **Evaluation and Research** | Fred Neighbors |
| **Networking, Development and Planning** | Alice Stephens |
| **Automated Services** | Mary Payne |
| **Technical Services** | Janet Hamilton |
| **Business Office** | Jim Dismukes |
| **Information Services** | Judy Shepard |
| **Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** | Fara Zaleski |

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## From The Executive Board Chairman

On behalf of the Executive Board, I am pleased to present this annual report for the Alabama Public Library Service for FY 1997.

The agency is dedicated to meeting the information needs of the citizens of Alabama by providing library resources and services. New methods and technologies are allowing APLS to expand these services, continuing its commitment to public libraries, state employees and the citizens of this state.

The members of the Executive Board are equally committed to ensuring that public libraries have access to these technologies and that they are available to every Alabamian. We will continue to strive for excellence in the services we provide to our citizens.

***Virginia Doyle***

## Evaluation and Research

The summer of 1997 was a rollicking hit with the kids of Alabama as they turned out in record numbers to "ROCK, RHYTHM & READ." Beginning with the kick-off meeting for librarians, the theme generated enthusiasm and energy. Reading incentives were provided by a host of Alabama celebrities including Nell Carter, Fannie Flagg, Dean Jones, Wayne Rogers and Hank Williams Jr.

APLS distributed summer program materials to 200 libraries across the state. Materials included 2,291 posters; 122,660 bookmarks; 69,820 reading logs; 50,450 certificates and 370 manuals.

As the program began, 50,003 Alabama youth registered for the summer activities. The participating youngsters read 877,982 books. Libraries provided 3,103 program events that were attended by 134,920 young people.

Also during the year, the division began producing two new publications: *Boardtalk*, a bimonthly four-page newsletter for public library board members and *Director's Chair*, a monthly newsletter for public library board chairmen and public library directors.

## Information Services

The Information Services Division of APLS includes these departments - Reference and Interlibrary Loan, Government Documents, Circulation and Video. This division serves public libraries, state officials and employees, the general public, and other libraries by providing them with books, periodical articles, database searches, electronic searches, state and federal documents, and videos to fill requests for the citizens of the state.

The Reference Department assisted 1,957 walk-in users and handled 5,941 in-house requests. Interlibrary Loan made 4,164 requests over OCLC, 3,308 of which were filled, and loaned 3,838 items over SOLINET. Circulation checked out 18,631 books and registered 219 new borrowers.

The staff used standard sources and the new electronic sources on CD-ROMS and through the Internet to fill requests. They filled recurring requests on a variety of mental and physical medical conditions, collectibles of every kind, handicrafts, livestock from llamas to earthworms, automobile repair, and literary criticism. Upon request, the staff sent numerous titles on such topics as English authors, science fair projects, Afro-American history, and American poetry to libraries to help with class assignments. Government documents were used to provide census statistics for librarians and state employees. Staff also filled requests for copies of state and federal laws, and items from the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations. Public libraries also requested professional material on such topics as collection development, weeding, the Internet, library policies and procedures, and book reviews.

The Video Department, formerly Audiovisual, circulated 6,591 videos during the year that were viewed by 210,875 people. Staff also produced and distributed the *APLS Video Catalog* and provided specialized filmographies upon request. They helped 358 walk-in users.

## Networking, Development and Planning Division

Perhaps the most exciting developments for public libraries in Alabama in FY97 revolved around efforts to increase access to the electronic resources on the Internet. In December, the APLS Electronic Access Committee's report "A Shared Vision: A Plan for Electronic Access to the World's Informational Resources" was presented to the APLS Executive Board. The committee recommended federal dollars be committed to funding grants to public libraries for electronic access and/or obtaining the resources to connect to the Internet. The committee also recommended that initiation of public access Internet services be supported even if staff access is in place.

At the beginning of the year, less than 25 percent of public libraries in Alabama reported having Internet access. Some public libraries did not have any computers. APLS and its Networking, Development, and Planning Division staff worked with libraries throughout the year to ensure that by the year 2000, every Alabamian will have access to the Internet.

APLS funded Basic Electronic/Internet Access grants for 93 public libraries and 23 branches as well as Expanded/Enhanced Electronic /Internet Access grants for 15 libraries. Division staff consulted with public libraries as they planned for and implemented the grants.

Area meetings were held for professional and community input into planning for use of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds in FY98 and subsequent years. From these meetings and the LSCA Advisory Council, "The Alabama Public Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year Plan October 1, 1997-September 30, 2002" was compiled. Among the objectives of the plan are funding of grants to enable libraries to obtain Internet connections—both basic dial-up and high-speed, and preparing library staff to utilize current and new technologies and to assist Alabamians in accessing information through the use of new technologies.

The Gates Library Foundation invited APLS to apply to become the first state to partner with the GLF in its mission of working with public libraries to provide access to computers, the Internet, and digital information for patrons in low-income communities in the United States and Canada. Division staff, working with other agency staff as well as public libraries, drafted the application.

Also during the year, division staff worked with public libraries as they began to apply for the e-rate for discounts on telecommunications services.

The division added its first two consultants, an administration and management consultant and a youth services consultant.

The division published its first catalog of agency-sponsored workshops. Twenty-nine continuing education events were sponsored including workshops on the Internet, disaster preparedness and recovery, evaluating electronic services, story-telling, library marketing, redesigning work in a changing library environment, managing work relationships, and fundraising for librarians and trustees.

## Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

BPH staff continued to meet patron requests for books and information. Efforts were made through exhibits and mailings to reach new areas of patrons. Staff attended meetings and conferences to remind work-related agencies of the library's unique resources for their clients.

The division circulated 149,65 special format titles to its patrons: 2,545 disc, 143,420 cassette and 3,700 braille. Disc circulation dropped by 50 percent as expected since few patrons chose this method of reading and flexible disc titles are no longer produced.

BPH added 890 new members. The majority of referrals continue to come from rehabilitation teachers and eye doctors. Through the regional library, active readers numbered 3,734 individual patrons with an additional 100 institutions using services.

During the year, 30 volunteers donated 2,632 hours. Groups donating their time as circulation volunteers included BellSouth Pioneers, Mormon missionaries and Junior League members. More than 330 students learned of the library's services by visiting with Regional staff.

## Automation Services

FY1997 saw the installation of the agency's world wide web server. A Silicon Graphics Indy Webforce server was installed to act as our web and mail server. An ISDN connection to the Supercomputer backbone network was installed and put into operation.

With the installation of Internet access, security became an issue and a firewall was purchased and installed.

It became necessary during the year to send staff to the TechnaCenter for training rather than placing the burden of training on the Automated Services staff. This change allowed the Automated Services staff to concentrate on remaining up-to-date on the hardware and software installed within the building.

## Technical Services

Technical Services became a separate division in FY 1997.

During the year, the division handled 1,353 more books and materials than the previous year. The division ordered 7,252 titles and received 10,635 volumes, including 2,153 gift books.

The division spent $679,034 on library materials, including $509,283 for books; $29,880 for serials in hard copy; $85,726 for microforms; and $54,144 for CD-ROM databases.

The 1997 ALICAT catalog, produced on four compact discs, consisted of 3,231,039 title entries in 7,668,138 locations. It also contained 88,024 AULS holdings. By the end of the year, APLS was able to gain access to the test version of ALICAT on the Internet.

## Finances

In 1997, the APLS Executive Board approved grants of Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds under Title I, Title II and Title III to public libraries, library systems and state agencies.

For FY 1997, the board approved $1,167,275 in LSCA grants.

A total of $5,049,351 or $1.20 per capita was awarded in State Aid for FY 97. Below is a breakdown of state aid totals.

In FY 1997, APLS received $7,781,148 from the state and $2,076,139 from the federal government.

During FY 1997, APLS made the following distributions: State Aid to Libraries – $5,049,351 ; Agency Operations – $2,731,797; Federal - Grants – $1,167,275; and Federal - Agency Operations – $908,863.

## State Aid Totals for 1997

| | |
|---|---|
| Akron Public Library | $566 |
| Anniston-Calhoun County Public Lib. | $129098 |
| Arlton Public Library | $958 |
| Attalla-Etowah Co. Public Library | $9063 |
| Autauga-Prattville Public Library | $46496 |
| B. B. Comer Memorial Library | $16606 |
| Baldwin County Library Cooperative | $127297 |
| Barbour County Library Cooperative | $30654 |
| Brent-Centreville Public Library | $19268 |
| Carl Elliott Regional Library | $110804 |
| Cheaha Regional Library | $143697 |
| Cherokee Public Library | $6928 |
| Chilton-Clanton Public Library | $41037 |
| Choctaw County Public Library | $19299 |
| Citronelle Memorial Library | $5201 |
| Clarke County Library Dev. Board | $33757 |
| Cross Trails Regional Library | $140698 |
| Cullman County Pub Library System | $85884 |
| Daleville Public Library | $8722 |
| DeKalb County Public Library | $68993 |
| Escambia Co. Coop. Library System | $43698 |
| Evergreen-Conecuh Co. Pub. Library | $16923 |
| Fayette County Memorial Library | $21595 |
| Florence-Lauderdale Public Library | $99786 |
| Foley Public Library | $7887 |
| Gadsden-Etowah Co. Public Library | $95946 |
| James C. Poole Jr. Memorial Library | $12147 |
| Greenville-Butler Co. Pub. Library | $26317 |
| H. Grady Bradshaw-Chambers Co. Lib. | $44685 |
| Hale County-Greensboro Library | $3716 |
| Harrison Regional Library System | $135618 |
| Hayneville/Lowndes Co. Pub. Library | $14475 |
| Helen Keller Public Library | $15125 |
| Henry County Library Authority | $18870 |
| Horseshoe Bend Regional Library | $237237 |
| Houston-Love Memorial Library | $100807 |
| Huntsville-Madison Co. Pub. Library | $309902 |
| Ina Pullen Smallwood Memorial Lib. | $7703 |
| Jefferson Co Library Cooperative | $794812 |
| Leighton Public Library | $6148 |
| Macon County-Tuskegee Pub. Library | $29008 |
| Marengo Library System | $28229 |
| Marshall County Cooperative Library | $92471 |
| Mary Berry Brown Memorial Library | $2507 |
| Mobile Public Library | $413296 |
| Monroe County Public Library | $29319 |
| Montgomery City-County Pub. Library | $261893 |
| Mose Hudson Tapia Public Library | $2898 |
| Moundville Public Library | $1915 |
| Muscle Shoals Public Library | $17396 |
| Newton Public Library | $3132 |
| Northwest Regional Library | $90041 |
| Oneonta Public Library | $49725 |
| Ozark-Dale Co. Public Library Inc. | $45124 |
| Perry County Library Development | $15119 |
| Phenix City-Russell Co Pub. Library | $62368 |
| Pickens County Cooperative Library | $25126 |
| Pike County Library Cooperative | $34412 |
| Prichard Public Library | $39917 |
| Rainbow City Public Library | $9334 |
| Robertsdale Public Library | $3642 |
| Rufus Floyd Public Library | $4917 |
| Satsuma Public Library | $6755 |
| Scottsboro Public Library | $59463 |
| Selma-Dallas County Public Library | $57677 |
| Sheffield Public Library | $17446 |
| St. Clair County Library | $66537 |
| Sumter County Library System | $19659 |
| Talladega Public Library | $23021 |
| Tuscaloosa Public Library | $188492 |
| Union Springs Public Library | $13466 |
| Washington County Public Library | $20616 |
| Westside Public Library | $872 |
| Wheeler Basin Regional Library | $235813 |
| White Hall Public Library | $937 |
| Wilcox County Library | $16539 |
| West Blocton Public Library | $1856 |

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